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In Re Application: Tianqing He et al.

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Art Unit: 3749

Invention: Device And Method For Rapid Drying Of Porous Materials

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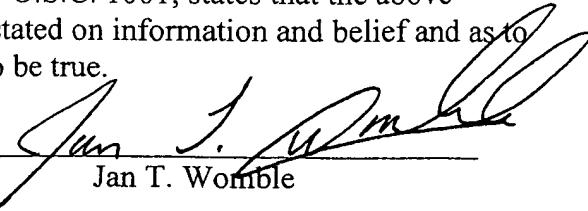
NOW COMES the undersigned, who affirms and says:

1. My name is Jan T. Womble. I am employed as a field engineer by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. I have had experience in the paving business for more than 15 years, with ten years of those being in the Quality Assurance Asphalt Laboratory.
2. In asphalt paving, it is important to be able to obtain the density of the asphalt. However, to obtain the density, it is important that the asphalt specimens be dried to achieve density. I am familiar with the processes and equipment that were used to dry asphalt prior to the introduction of the Core Dry vacuum dryer by InstroTek. We have re-tested hundreds of asphalt specimens that were fan dried and with the introduction of the CoreDry it has become apparent that fan drying is not very effective in completely drying the specimens, as required in the specifications. CoreDry is by far the most effective way to completely dry asphalt specimens.
3. Having used the CoreDry for over a year with countless samples, I am familiar with its operation in the lab and field settings.
4. The Core Dry vacuum dryer constitutes an important advance in asphalt testing. Before the Core Dry vacuum dryer, asphalt samples had to be placed in front of a fan, which could take hours. With the Core Dry vacuum dryer, it is possible to obtain a dry sample of asphalt for a density test in less than 15 minutes.
5. The Core Dry vacuum dryer has met a long-standing need in the field to be able to quickly and effectively dry asphalt samples to perform density tests. Before the

Core Dry vacuum dryer was introduced, there was no other effective means to dry an asphalt sample in the same or similar amount of time.

The undersigned, being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both under Title 28 U.S.C. 1001, states that the above information is true except as to those things stated on information and belief and as to those things the undersigned believes them to be true.

This the 23 day of August, 2006.

  
Jan T. Womble